

WIGMORE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Leintwardine

Feb. 21st ~~3rd March~~ 1903.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1902.

I have deduced my averages for the last six years i.e. since the formation of the New District.

The population for this year (1902) is estimated from the Census of 1901, less the hut population which has now entirely disappeared from the District, and is now about 4,078, shewing a decrease of 72 from that of 1901.

The Birth-rate 24.7 is the lowest I have had to record since the Tables for the District were computed, and is explained by the remarks I made in my last Report, which will account with even more force for the past year viz: that the young people, on attaining the age of 15 and upwards, migrate to more populous districts, in order to obtain better means of livelihood.

I wish to place before your Council the fact that, having to derive my Statistics from Returns received from four different Registration Districts, renders this part of the work very complicated and onerous.

I am glad to be able to report the absence of any serious epidemic in your District during the past year, and this, I think, is partly due to the immediate investigation into the sources of outbreaks of infections, and the effort to prevent, by precept and warning, the spread of such outbreaks. Statutory restrictions i.e. restrictions, the breach of which is punishable by law, have really very little to do ordinarily with the spread of infection and effective restriction. In such cases, it is chiefly a matter of education and persuasion, and the getting people to realize their duty towards

1902.

1902.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year

ending 31st December 1902.

I have deduced my averages for the last six years i.e. since the formation of the New District.

The population for this year (1902) is estimated from the Census of 1901, less the population which has now entirely disappeared from the District, and is now about 4,078, showing a decrease of 72 from that of 1901.

The Birth-rate 24.7 is the lowest I have had to record since the Tables for the District were compiled, and is explained by the remarks I made in my last Report, which will account with even more force for the past year viz: that the young people, on attaining the age of 15 and upwards, might to more populous districts, in order to obtain better means of livelihood.

I wish to point out to your Council the fact that, having to derive my Statistics from Returns received from four different Registration Districts, renders this part of the work very complicated and onerous.

I am glad to be able to report the absence of any serious epidemic in your District during the past year, and this, I think, is partly due to the immediate investigation to the sources of outbreaks of infections, and the effort to prevent, by prompt and warning, the spread of such outbreaks. Statutory restrictions i.e. restrictions, the breach of which is punishable by law, have really very little to do ordinarily with the spread of infection and effective restriction. In such cases, it is chiefly a matter of education and persuasion, and the patient people to realize their duty

towards their neighbours, and to take as much precaution to prevent the spread of infection from their house, as they would wish to have taken to prevent its introduction there.

The Mortality Returns.

The following Table shows certain statistics of Mortality during the year 1902, compared with the Average of the same district in preceding years, and for England and Wales in 1902.

	1902	Average of six preceding years.	England and Wales.
DEATHS per 1,000 of population	14.7	14.8	16.3
BIRTHS per 1,000 of population	24.7	28.1	28.6
DEATHS from Zymotic Disease per 1,000 of population.	.24	.85	1.64
DEATHS of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births.	118	95	133.

The vital Statistics for the year conform very nearly to the average for the last six years, the Zymotic death-rate is certainly low, of the 60 deaths at all ages, 8 were due to Cancer, 7 to Heart disease, so far as vital Statistics are any indication of the sanitary condition of a locality the above may be considered satisfactory.

With reference to the deaths of those under one year, of which there were 12, the causes were as follows:-

Enteritis	2
Phthisis	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	3
Premature Birth	1
Convulsions	1
Meningitis	1
Intussusception	1
Atrophy of Stomach	1

towards their neighbours, and to take as much precaution to prevent the spread of infection from their houses, as they would wish to have taken to prevent its introduction there.

The Mortality Returns.

The following Table shows certain statistics of Mortality during the year 1902, compared with the Average of the same district in preceding years, and for England and Wales in 1902.

DEATHS per 1,000 of population	1902	Average of six preceding years. England and Wales.
14.7	14.8	16.3
BIRTHS per 1,000 of population	24.7	28.1
DEATHS from Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of population.	24	35
DEATHS of Infants under one year per 1,000 Births	118	95

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

With reference to the deaths of those under one year, of which there were 12, the causes were as follows:-

Enteritis	2
Pneumonia	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	3
Premature Birth	1
Convulsions	1
Meningitis	1
Influenza	1
Atrophy of Stomach	1

The following Table gives the ages of the persons who died during 1902:-

Under one year	12
One and under 5 years	1
Five and under 15 years	3
Fifteen and under 25 years	2
Twenty-five and under 65 years	17
Sixty-five and upwards	25

60
 =====

There were six deaths due to Phthisis during the year, in some cases, no doubt, the infection is contracted elsewhere and brought home, of which I have seen some marked instances.

The following Table shews the number and nature of the cases of certain infectious diseases which occurred in the district during the year 1902, also the number of houses infected, and I can, on reference to my records, give an opinion as to the probable source of the infection in each case.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diptheria	Typhoid Fever	Chicken Pox.
Number of Houses infected	5	2	1	1
Number of persons attacked	7	3	1	1
Number of Deaths	0	1	0	0

THE SCARLET FEVER Cases were probably due to the revival of germs from previous cases in the same houses, and I think that, considering the outbreak of this disease in 1901, it shows how effectually disinfection was carried out then, only to have such a small proportion of cases during 1902.

The DIPHTHERIA Cases were three in number, one at Lye-pole evidently an imported case. The other two in the village of Wigmore, at the same time there were several septic throats in this village, and the fact that the disease is so frequently associated with drainage ^{de} effects, tends only to show, that the power for mischief of the diptheria ^h bacillus is largely influenced by insanitary conditions.

The following Table gives the ages of the persons who

died during 1902:-

Under one year	12
One and under 5 years	1
Five and under 15 years	3
Fifteen and under 25 years	2
Twenty-five and under 65 years	17
Sixty-five and upwards	25
	<hr/>
	60
	<hr/>

There were six deaths due to Phtisis during the year,

in some cases, no doubt, the infection is contracted elsewhere and brought home, of which I have seen some marked instances.

The following Table shows the number and nature of the

cases of certain infectious diseases which occurred in the

district during the year 1902, also the number of houses in-

fect, and I can, on reference to my records, give an opinion

as to the probable source of the infection in each case.

Number of Houses infected	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Chicken Pox.
5	2	1	1	1
Number of persons attacked	7	2	1	1
Number of Deaths	0	1	0	0

THE SCARLET FEVER Cases were probably due to the revival of

germs from previous cases in the same houses, and I think that

considering the outbreak of this disease in 1901, it shows how

effectually disinfection was carried out then, only to have

such a small proportion of cases during 1902.

The DIPHtheria Cases were three in number, one at Iye-pole

evidently an imported case. The other two in the village of

Wigmore, at the same time there were several septic throats

in this village, and the fact that the disease is so frequently

associated with drainage effects, tends only to show, that

the power for mischief of the diphtheria bacillus is largely

influenced by insanitary conditions.

It was deemed advisable in May 1902 owing to the outbreak of Smallpox in England, that Chickenpox should be made a notifiable disease, for a period of six months.

Five cases of Erysipelas, in five different houses were reported to me in 1902.

In every outbreak, the necessary precautions for personal isolation etc. are enjoined by word of mouth, and by leaving printed plain directions how to prevent the spread of infection

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

No School has been closed by my recommendation to your Council during the past year. The Shobdon School has been closed for an epidemic of Measles, on the recommendation of the local medical man.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SANITARY WORK.

During the course of the year, I have, at certain periods, or as occasion required, inspected your district, in order, by personal observation, to keep myself informed as to the conditions injurious to health, existing therein, or in connection with outbreaks of disease, wherever I have found any local sanitary defects I have made careful notes, and called the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the same, with a view to the necessary action being taken, the outcome of which is included in the Inspectors report, with reference to the special sanitary requirements of your district in the matter of main sewerage and water supply where such are needed. I would refer your Council to previous reports of mine.

The following is an account of the Sanitary Work for the year 1902 in the Wigmore Rural Sanitary District, furnished by the Sanitary Inspector:

Houses visited	53
Nuisances abated	5
Houses in bad repair	3
New drains or old ones reconstructed	8
New closets or old ones repaired	6
Bad water	/
Accumulations	0
Over Crowding	0
Animals kept to be a nuisance.	0

It was deemed advisable in May 1902 owing to the outbreak of smallpox in England, that Chickering should be made a notifiable disease, for a period of six months. Five cases of smallpox, in five different houses were reported to me in 1902.

In every outbreak, the necessary precautions for personal isolation etc. are enjoined by word of mouth, and by leaving printed plain directions how to prevent the spread of infection.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

No School has been closed by my recommendation to your Council during the past year. The Sheldon School has been closed for an epidemic of Measles, on the recommendation of the local medical man.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE SANITARY WORK.

During the course of the year, I have, at certain periods, or as occasion required, inspected your district, in order, by personal observation, to keep myself informed as to the conditions injurious to health, existing therein, or in connection with outbreaks of disease, wherever I have found any local sanitary defects I have made careful notes, and called the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to the same, with a view to the necessary action being taken, the outcome of which is included in the Inspector's report, with reference to the special sanitary requirements of your district in the matter of main sewerage and water supply where such are needed. I would refer your Council to previous reports of mine.

The following is an account of the Sanitary Work for the year 1902 in the Wigmore Rural Sanitary District, furnished

by the Sanitary Inspector:

Houses visited

Drainages altered

Houses in bad repair

New drains or old ones reconstructed

New closets or old ones repaired

Bad water

Accommodations

Overcrowding

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Dampness of the dwelling is one of the commonest and most serious sanitary shortcomings of the country cottage. It may arise from one or more causes, some of which are exceedingly common in the older properties. Cottages are often built in most improper places, some being built in damp hollows or excavated hillsides, then again in some cases the rain from the roof running down the walls of the house, or dropping from the eaves, soaks into the foundations, and keeps the ground floor continually damp and unwholesome, this from the want of eaves-spouting. Very often the roofs of the Cottages are not water-tight, and besides the unnumerable discomforts from the wet in rainy weather, there is a continuous danger from the dampness of the Walls which have been soaked by the rain. The closets are still not uncommonly of objectionable construction unprovided with proper means of access for scavenging and with imperfect receptacles which admit rain and surface water.

OVER-CROWDING.

There is not much gross over-crowding in the district although the cubic space in the cottages is frequently undesirably small for the families they accommodate, wherever such overcrowding depends upon the taking in of lodgers or the unnecessary detention at home of adult children, I advise notice to be given by the Inspector.

There is one Well in your district which has absorbed a great deal of time and correspondence during the past year, I refer to the Lingen School water supply which is derived from a Well situate in the School grounds, this Well was evidently contaminated by the adjacent drains from Urinals etc. The drains have been now re-laid and diverted and the Well cleaned out, and I hope that during the next year, it will not again engage your attention.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Dampness of the dwelling is one of the commonest and most serious sanitary shortcomings of the country cottage. It may arise from one or more causes, some of which are exceedingly common in the older properties. Cottages are often built in most improper places, some being built in damp hollows or excavated hill-sides, then again in some cases the rain from the roof running down the walls of the house, or dropping from the eaves, seeps into the foundations, and keeps the ground floor continually damp and unwholesome, this from the want of eaves-spouting. Very often the roofs of the cottages are not water-tight, and besides the innumerable discomforts from the wet in rainy weather, there is a continuous danger from the dampness of the walls which have been caused by the rain. The closets are still not uncommonly of objectionable construction unprovided with proper means of access for scavenging and with imperfect receptacles which admit rain and surface water.

OVER-CROWDING.

There is not much gross over-crowding in the district although the cubic space in the cottages is frequently undesirably small for the families they accommodate, wherever such over-crowding depends upon the taking in of lodgers or the unnecessary detention at home of adult children, I advise notice to be given by the Inspector. There is one Well in your district which has absorbed a great deal of time and correspondence during the past year, I refer to the Lingen School water supply which is derived from a Well situated in the School grounds, this Well was evidently contaminated by the adjacent drains from Urinals etc. The drains have been now re-laid and diverted and the Well cleaned out, and I hope that during the next year, it will not again engage your attention.

The total population of your district at the Census of 1901 was 4,152.

Number of inhabited houses at same census, were 900

Average number of persons per house 4.6

The area of District in acres exclusive of area covered by water 37,364.

The population estimated to the middle of 1902; 4,078.

I append the four Tabular Statements of sickness and Mortality during the year 1902.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John Cartwright

Medical Officer of Health.

The total population of your district at the Census

of 1901 was 4,152.

Number of inhabited houses at same census, were 900

Average number of persons per house 4.6

The area of District in acres exclusive of area covered by

water 37,364.

The population estimated to the middle of 1902; 4,078.

I append the four Tabular Statements of sickness and

Mortality during the year 1902.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Medical Officer of Health.